

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03012 190553Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

----- 124975

R 190441Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4401

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T JIDDA 3012

EXDIS

STATE PASS DOD FOR ISA

DHAHRAN PASS CHUSMTM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJ: OPERATION TRIANGLE: MODERNIZATION OF YEMENI
AIR FORCE

REF: A. JIDDA 2750

B. SANAA 1296

1. USMTM HAS GIVEN US OUTLINE OF TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT
NEEDED TO MODERNIZE AND "WESTERNIZE" YEMENI AIR FORCE AS
WORKED OUT JOINTLY WITH RSAF. USMTM PROPOSES PACKAGE
TOTTALLING \$117 MILLION BROKEN UP AS FOLLOWS (FIGURES IN
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS):

A. 20 F-5'E'S WITH SPARES AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT--75.0.

B. 4 F-5B'S WITH SPARES AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT--15.0.

C. 6 AB-205 HELICOPTERS WITH SPARES AND SUPPORT EQUIP-
MENT--3.0.

D. 6 F-27'S WITH SPARES AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT--10.5.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 03012 190553Z

E. 3 AR-1 RADARS WITH SPARES, SUPPORT EQUIPMENT AND
ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATIONS--7.5.

F. MUNITIONS PACKAGE--2.0.

G. TRAINING--4.0.

USMTM EMPHASIZES THAT PRECEDING FIGURES ARE ONLY ESTI-
MATES BASED ON EXPERIENCE WITH SIMILAR TYPES OF EQUIP-
MENT AND DO NOT, OF COURSE, PROVIDE DETAILED PLANNING
AS TO HOW PROGRAM OF THIS MAGNITUDE COULD BE UNDERTAKEN.
PRESUMABLY PROGRAM HAS BEEN SENT TO SULTAN BY HIS STAFF
AND WE MAY EXPECT HIS COMMENTS BEFORE LONG. (IN PASSING,
EMBASSY WONDERS IF SIMPLER F-5A, IF AVAILABLE, MIGHT
NOT BE MORE APPROPRIATE AIRCRAFT FOR YEMEN.)

2. WITH REFERENCE TO UAE AMBASSADOR SUWEIDI'S INTEREST
IN TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS FOR YAR (REF B), USMTM BELIEVES
THAT INDEPENDENT HELICOPTER PROGRAM FOR YAR NOT FEAS-
IBLE AT PRESENT. HELICOPTERS COSTLY AND COMPLICATED
AND--SHORT OF FULL CONTRACTOR SUPPORT--EXCEED YEMENIS'
MAINTENANCE CAPABILITIES. (SAG'S OWN HELICOPTER PROGRAM
IS NOT CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY OR SUCCESSFUL.) THEY HAVE,
HOWEVER, BEEN INCLUDED IN PROPOSED LONG-RANGE EQUIPMENT
PACKAGE BECAUSE OF INSISTENT YEMENI REQUEST. SAG ITSELF
HAS ONLY TEN AB-205'S, FOLLOWING TRANSFER OF TWO TO
OMAN IN APRIL, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ANY LIKELI-
HOOD THAT ANY REMAINING AB-205'S WOULD BE TRANSFERRED
TO YEMEN.
THACHER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DOD.

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NNN

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